

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF POWER

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.797
ANSWERED ON 10.02.2025

POLLUTION FROM THERMAL POWER PLANTS

797 SMT. RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of **POWER** be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of power plants irrespective of ownership, that have installed Flue Gas Desulphurisation (FGD) to remove the sulphur from the exhaust gas across the country;
- (b) the funds utilised for the same to date;
- (c) whether Government has authenticated the fact that FGD has very little impact in curbing pollution, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether Government is considering replacing the FGD with something effective and affordable, if so, the details thereof?

A N S W E R

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER

(SHRI SHRIPAD NAIK)

(a) to (d): All Thermal Power Plants (TPPs) are required to comply with the emission norms as notified by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) and directions given by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) from time to time. MoEF&CC vide notification dated 07.12.2015, 31.03.2021, 05.09.2022 and 30.12.2024 have stipulated stack emission norms [including for Sulfur Di-oxide (SO₂)] and timelines for compliance in respect of coal based TPPs, categorized as Category-A, B and C.

In order to meet the SO₂ emission norms and timelines notified by MoEF&CC, Flue Gas Desulphurization (FGD) systems are being installed in coal based TPPs. Total 537 Units [2,04,160 Mega Watt (MW)] have been identified for installation of FGDs in TPPs. Out of these, FGD installation has been completed in 49 Units (25,590 MW), contracts awarded / under implementation in 211 Units (91,880 MW), 180 Units (58,997 MW) are under various stages of tendering process and 97 Units (27,693 MW) are under pre-tendering process.

FGD is an effective system in controlling SO₂ emission at stack level in the coal based TPPs. Post installation and operationalization of FGD systems in TPPs, SO₂ emission from their stacks has come down to the prescribed range of norms. It has also helped in reducing the Suspended Particulate Matter (SPM) emission from stacks.

The capital and operating costs of FGD systems vary from plant to plant, depending upon availability of space and size of Units. Standardization cannot be done as different sites have different requirements in terms of layout and orientation. Therefore, the cost of installation of FGD systems varies in the range of approximately Rs 0.85 Crore to Rs 1.2 Crore per MW.
